

WEST LAKE LANDFILL, BRIDGETON, MISSOURI

QUESTION: What steps are is EPA taking to address concerns related to the adjacent Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill underground fire and groundwater conditions and when does EPA plan to select the final remedy for the West Lake Landfill?

ANSWER:

- EPA and Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) are working to prevent the underground fire from the Bridgeton Sanitary landfill from spreading to the West Lake Landfill. While the Bridgeton Landfill is not part of the Superfund site, EPA is overseeing the field studies and engineering surveys (expected to be completed within March-April timeframe) that will determine the location of an isolation trench, which is expected to prevent the spread of the fire.
- With respect to the West Lake Landfill, groundwater sampling results from July 2012, April 2013 and July 2013 have indicated that radiological contamination is not at new locations nor is contaminated groundwater moving (despite recent media reports to the contrary).
- No final decision for a remedy at West Lake Landfill has been made. Based on the 2012 consultation with the National Remedy Review Board, additional evaluations are being conducted by the PRPs with oversight from EPA and MDNR. These evaluations will be used by EPA to make a decision regarding a final remedy for the site. Since these evaluations are in their early phase, EPA has not established a schedule for the final remedy.
- EPA is in dialogue with the St. Louis District of the Army Corps of Engineers on possible future roles for the Army Corps of Engineers.

BACKGROUND

- The West Lake Landfill areas with radiological material are the focus of one part of a larger Superfund remedy.
- The groundwater beneath the West Lake site is not being used for drinking water. The drinking water provided at Lambert Airport, local businesses and virtually all residences near the landfill comes from regulated, treated and tested public systems, and is safe to consume.
- The adjacent Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill is a permitted municipal waste landfill, recently closed under the state's jurisdiction.
- Because of the fire and associated odor at the Bridgeton Landfill, MDNR has been conducting air monitoring of the site. There have been no elevated radiation levels, further ensuring the health and safety of people living and working in the area near the West Lake and Bridgeton landfills.

- Congressional Interest: Senators Claire McCaskill (MO-D) and Roy Blunt (MO-R), Representative William Lacy Clay (MO-D).